Numb. 50.

THE OBSERVATOR.

...marks on the Stories concerning the Affair of Cadiz. *On the* Flotilla's *Arrival at* Vigo. *On the* Jacobite *Report concerning the* Admirante *of* Caſtile. *On the Dutcheſs of* An-...ou's *Fright. Conſiderations on the Enemies loſs this Campaign.*

From Saturday October the 10th, to Wednesday October the 14th, 1702.

HOneſt Country-man, thou art juſt come from *London*; Prithee what News haſt thou brought us?

...ountry-m. We are ſhot in the ſhoulder, we ...quite untwiſted; the Deſcent has miſcarri... *Cadiz.* I could not have believed it, had ...ot been told of it by an Honeſt Friend, and ...rue *Engliſhman.* I fancy I look'd then as *...High-Flying Popiſh Jacobites* did after the Bat... of *Luzara.*

...Obſ. Only with this Difference; you were ...y that your Country met with a *Repulſe*, and ...y *griev'd* for the *Loſs* of the *Enemies* of the ...oteſtant Religion, and of the Properties of ...gliſhmen.

...Country-m. I'll tell you farther Sir, concer... this Deſcent; my Friend and I agreed that ... Buſineſs was ſomewhat Cloudy, by the Ac...nt of the *Gazette*, the Truth of which I leave ... you only to conſider; But there being no ...rticulars in that Paper, we enquired no far...er about that Dark Story; but in the Evening ...happened to go to a Coffee-Houſe, where ...got all the Particulars.

...Obſ. Pray let us hear them: 'Tis what we ...nt.

...Country-m. You muſt not Depend on my ...ews, for I had it from a parcel of *High-Flyers*, ...hoſe Oracle, you know, never yet ſpake one ...ord of Truth on the behalf of *Old England.* ...hey gave an Account (as near as I could gueſs) ... the *Killing* of more *Engliſh* and *Dutchmen* ...an were *Employ'd* in that Expedition: They ...ld us how many hundreds were kill'd at *Rota*, ...w many thouſands at Port St. *Maries*, at the *...attagorda* Fort, and the *Pontall.* In ſhort they ...ll'd more Men in half an hours time, than ever ...anded at *Cadiz:* Thinks I, ſince I have ſo long ...anted a fighting Story, I have now got one ...ith a Witneſs! Then they proceeded to give ... Account of the Irregularities of the Soldiery, ...w they *Plunder'd* the *People*, and *Robb'd* the *...hurches*, how they abus'd the *Wooden Gods* and *...ages*, how they *Raviſh'd Nuns*, *Ram-Cats* and *...edge-Hogs*; one in the Company whoſe Coat ...as ſo Thread-bare that a Louſe could not ...et footing on it, with a Sword by his ſide, much ...f the Faſhion and full as Ruſty as a Poker, with ... Wig on his Head that had not above 10 or 12 ...airs in it at moſt, began to talk as Impudent... as if he had been the Popes *Nuncio:* Says he, *...Brethren, let us a little Conſider the Deſign of this ...Attempt, and the Occaſion of it; this was the Pro...ect of King* Will, *and you ſee the Effect of it.* Then they began all to rail againſt K. *William* ...of ever Glorious Memory, at ſuch a rate that ...ny Oaken Towel began to move of it ſelf, and ...o I was forc'd to leave the Company becauſe ... could not keep my Temper.

Obſ. Without doubt the Spirits of theſe Men are up at this ill News, whoſe *Deſigns* are *Strengthned* the more the *Confederacy* is *weakned.* We are not to expect continual Succeſſes, nor are we to direct the Almighty in the Diſpenſations of his Providence; 'tis the Nature of depraved Mankind to grow Wanton under Mercies, and therefore Afflictions are the greateſt Bleſſings when they put us in mind of our Duty; our extraordinary Succeſs in the beginning of the Campaign ſhould have taught us other means of Praiſing God for ſuch ſignal Favours than by making of *Bonfires* and Firing of *Cannon:* If He goeth not out with our Armies, we had as good keep them at Home; and if they meet with Proſperity, it is by the Aſſiſtance of a Power Superior to that of humane Force; and if Mercies received be not the Subjects of our Praiſe, we cannot expect to continue long the Objects of Divine Goodneſs; and thus a Repulſe of this Nature, well Conſidered and Improv'd, may be of greater Advantage to us than a ſignal Victory.

This holds true in Politicks as well as Religion, we know better how to truſt Men for the Future when we have undeniable Evidence of their Service: If this Story be true (which God forbid) we are aſſured of the Deſigns and Vanity of thoſe Men, who have advanced the Notion of confining National Service to a Party under the Reſtrictions of *Principles* in *Religion* or *Opinion*, without Regard to their *Affection* to the Intereſt and Reputation of their Country. I am not eaſily brought into a Belief, of what our *High Flyers* Report of the Gentlemen engaged in that Expedition to *Cadiz*, of whoſe Courage and Conduct I had ſuch hopes. But if the Caſe be ſo as is Reported by our common Enemies, nothing can redound more to the Diſreputation of our Country, than to ſend Men abroad who had before engaged themſelves in the Service of their Country by Solemn Tyes and Obligations of Oaths of Fidelity to Her Majeſty, confirmed and ratified by taking the Sacrament in the Church of *England* after a moſt Religious manner: Nothing I ſay can be a greater Diſgrace to our holy Religion, than theſe Men who by their Actions convince the Popiſh World, that the Profeſſors of it are bound neither by Divine or humane Laws; for my part I ſhall not determine the Caſe, I have little Notice of this Affair ſo as to make a probable Conjecture, the true Diſcovery of it is not, I believe, many Leagues from our Iſland; and when known, it is time enough for Remarks.

Country-m. Nothing vexes me ſo much as that theſe Men under pretence of being *High-Flyers* ſhould take the Occaſion of every Turn of State to aſperſe and vilify the Sacred Memory of King *William*, as if the *Bleſſings* of his *Life* were turned into *Curſes* after his *Death.*

Obſ.

Obſ. I am apt to think this Proceeding might be according to the Scheme left by King *William*, but we can't tell whether the Perſons he intended to make uſe of were Employed in this Enterprize, and had he been living, the Buſineſs of *Talmaſh* and the Affair of *Dunkirk* are Inſtances, that Prince carried no Charms about him againſt Treachery; he was no more ſecure againſt Clandeſtine Practices than another Man; and tho he got for us the *Golden Fleece* of our Liberties without the help of a *Medea*, he found the Charms of a *Medea* prevalent againſt his Enterprizes; and perhaps the Witchcraft is not yet over. I am ſure no honeſt *Engliſhman* will Reflect upon Her Majeſty by reaſon of this miſcarriage. It was a lawful juſt Attempt, and if the Soldiery did not comply with the Terms of Her Majeſties Declaration, it was not the fault of the Sender but of the Perſons that were ſent: And tho' loſt Reputation is the hardeſt thing in the World to be reſtored, yet the 3 Eſtates of the Kingdom conven'd in Parliament have Power ſo far to retreive our Credit, as to puniſh the Perſons that have made this ſtain in the Reputation of our Country, which may ſo far convince the Powers of *Europe*, that this was not a National Act.

Country-m. I wiſh with all my Soul the Parliament was now ſitting, to take this great Affair into their Immediate Conſideration, and to Adviſe Her Majeſty in this weighty Concern.

Obſ. This is much owing to your ſelves, you choſe ſo many of Her Majeſties Officers Members of Parliament, that the Service of the Crown and that of the Senate ſo interfer'd one with the other, that Her Majeſty was forc'd to prorogue the Parliament from the 8th to the 20th of this Month; otherwiſe they had been ſitting at this Critical Juncture, nor can Her Majeſty take it well of her Subjects to take her Officers from their conſtant Attendance in her Service, to be employ'd in yours; you would not be willing to be ſerv'd ſo your ſelves; and I am ſure I gave you ſufficient Caution againſt this thing before the Election of Members.

Country-m. I proteſt, Mr. *Obſervator*, this thing ſticks in my Stomach, I hoped to hear *Fighting* and not *Plundering* Stories from *Cadiz*: But one thing I have wondered at in reading the Seſſions Paper, or the Account of the Goal Delivery of *New-Gate*, ever now and then we have a parcel of Fellons, Houſe-Breakers, *&c.* delivered thence into Her Majeſties Service; now when theſe Fellows came to *Cadiz* they were in their Element, they had ſomething to work upon, this is a ſerious Conſideration tho the Number of thoſe Men is inconſiderable; for if I put a piece of ſtinking Beef into my Powdering-Tub it will Corrupt all the reſt, and ſo may a few of theſe Fellows do by an Army.

Obſ. This Action may be improved to the Advantage of the *Engliſh* Nation; if theſe Men are puniſhed, it will deter others from Practices of the like Nature, and from this we may conclude how finely we ſhould have been Guarded by theſe Men, if they had been eſtabliſhed into a ſtanding Army. But after all this noiſe, I'll lay my Head to a Turnep, it is not half ſo bad as our *High-Flyers* and *Jacobites* report it to be. We'll leave this Diſcourſe at preſent, what other News haſt thou brought us?

Country-m. You are miſtaken, Sir, concerning the *Spaniſh* Flota, they are got into *Galicia* as was reported.

Obſ. I am not miſtaken in this Point, I ſay it is not the Flota is arrived at *Vigo*, but only ſome Galleons that have brought home the Plate belonging to the Crown of *Spain*, which is a very inconſiderable thing, conſidering the preſent Exigencies, and that *France* and *Spain* are equal Sharers in that Money, for the two Nations have now but one common Stock. The only bad Effect of this will be this, that the Ships are returned to *Europe*, and by this means their Privateers will get Men to moleſt us in our Trade, by whom we cannot ſuffer much till the next Spring, for our greateſt Fleets are arrived already; and what is better than this, we have a ſufficient Naval Force to ſecure our Trade.

Country-m. We ſay, *Seldom an ill Story comes by it ſelf*, here are two of them together, and the good News we had in the *Gazette* and other News Papers of the Admirante of *Caſtile*'s having come to *Portugal* and having Declared the for the Emperour, you ſee is contradicted by the *Jacobite* News Paper.

Obſ. You may be ſure theſe Men will take Opportunities to Villifie the preſent Government, as well as the Memory of King *William*. Here's a Story of the pretended Queen of *Spain*'s being Frighted in her Chamber, as if ſome Body was forcing his way to be *Coadjutori* to the Duke *D' Anjou* in his Abſence: I warrant it the next *Jacobite* News will tell you that Perſon was one of thoſe People they ſay *Raviſhed* the *Nuns* at *Cadiz*, the failure at that place ſhall be for the future made the Reaſon of all the miſcarriages that ſhall happen. The Enemies of the Government have now ſomething to talk of, and they won't ſpare ſpeaking, if the Miniſtry does not take care to ſtop their Mouths.

But honeſt Country-man, be not caſt down by reaſon of all theſe ſad Stories, which I don't yet grant to be true; and ſuppoſing them true, what mighty Occaſion have our Enemies to boaſt? They have got nothing; they have ſav'd one Town, and they hector as if they had gotten ten; but what have they loſt? E'en every Battel they have fought, and every Town the Confederates have Attackt: Do they make this noiſe and bluſter meerly becauſe they have not loſt all in one ſingle Campaign? And becauſe they have in ſome meaſure ſtop't the Confederates in their Victories in one ſingle place, when the Seaſon of the year muſt have done it of Courſe. And after all the Bravadoes of Jacobites and High-Flyers, I can't believe that Brave General and true *Engliſhman*, the Duke of *Ormond*, will leave the Town of *Cadiz* otherwiſe than in Aſhes; if thoſe under his Command have a like Reſpect to the Confederate Cauſe, and the Reputation of their Country.

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